THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI RAMJIBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government has created an institutional mechanism for periodical review of the performance and status of Navratna Public Sector Enterprises. An Apex Committee has been constituted for this purpose for which instructions have been issued on 15.3.2002. The format for reviewing the performance of Navratna PSEs has since been drawn up. All the administrative Ministries/Departments have been asked to advise the Navratna PSEs under their administrative control to complete the format and forward it to the Department of Public Enterprises through the administrative Ministry/Department.

Regional langauge news in Oriya on DD-1

1272. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA; Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the regional language news in Oriya on DD-1 is being telecast only once everyday against three to five times in other regional languages; and

(b) whether Government propose to telecast as least three times news in Oriya regional language on DD-1?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROACASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Prasar Bharati has informed that from 20th July, 2002, there are two bulletins in Oriya, from Regional News Unit, Bhubaneswar—a 10 minute long morning bulletin from 8.00 a.m. to 8.10 a.m—Monday to Saturday and from 8.30 a.m. to 8.40 a.m. on Sunday, in addition to the existing evening news bulletin telecast daily between 7.00 p.m. to 7.15 p.m.

Two headling bulletins have also been introduced in Oriya, at 3.00 p.m. and 5.00 p.m. with effect from 15th July, 2002.

Non-payment of wages to workers in CPC

1273. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that casual staff working in Central production Centre, particularly Floor Assistants, have not been paid their wages/ remuneration since April, 2002;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof;

(c) the steps proposed/taken for ensuring regular payment to those low paid workers immediately on completion of their contract; and

(d) the likely date by which the payment due to these employees will be made?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Payment upto June, 2002 has already been made to all the casual artists, including casual Floor Assistants.

(d) Does not arise.

FDI in Print Media

1274. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whetehr Government have since decided to allow Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in print media against the recommendations of the Standing Committee of Information Technology as also against the decision of Government in early 50s;

(b) if so, the compelling reasons therefor;

(c) whether the limit of FDI will be raised in print media as it happened in banking sector, where initially 20 per cent was allowed in May 2001, but after nine months it was raised to 49 per cent; and

(d) if so, what safeguards Government have taken to ensure that the print media is not influenced by foreign magnels?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) The Government has decided to allow Foreign Direct Investment upto 26% in Indian entities publishing newspapers and periodicals dealing in news and current affairs subject to suitable safeguards. It has also been decided to allow Indian editions of foreign scientific, technical and speciality magazines/periodicals/journals and foreign investment upto 74% in Indian entities publishing scientific, technical and speciality magazines/periodical/journals.